

SEER Site-Specific Coding Guidelines**LYMPH NODES****Lymph Nodes C770–C779**

Note: Surgery codes for lymph nodes (C770-C779) are not limited to lymphomas.

Primary Site - Nodal vs. Extra-nodal

1. When multiple lymph node chains are involved at the time of diagnosis, do not simply code the lymph node chain that was biopsied.
 - a. If it is possible to determine where the disease originated, code the primary site to that lymph node chain.
 - b. If multiple lymph node chains are involved and it is not possible to determine the lymph node chain where the disease originated, code the primary site to C778, lymph nodes of multiple regions.
2. If a lymphoma is extranodal, code the organ of origin.

Example: Pathology from stomach resection shows lymphoma. No other pathologic or clinical disease identified. Code the primary site as stomach, NOS (C169).

3. If a lymphoma is present both in an extranodal site and in that organ's regional lymph nodes, code the extralymphatic organ as the primary site. The only exception would be if the lymphoma in the extranodal site were a direct extension from the regional nodes. Lymphomas can spread from the regional lymph nodes into an extranodal site only by direct extension.

Example 1: Lymphoma is present in the spleen and splenic lymph nodes. Code the primary site to spleen (C422).

Example 2: Lymphoma is present in the stomach and the gastric lymph nodes. Code the primary site to stomach, NOS (C169).

4. If the lymphoma is present in extralymphatic organ(s) and non-regional lymph nodes, consult the physician to determine a primary site. If a site cannot be determined, code Lymph Node, NOS (C779).
5. Code the diagnosis of chronic lymphocytic leukemia (9823/3) and/or small lymphocytic lymphoma (9670/3) to SLL if there are positive lymph nodes or deposits of lymphoma/leukemia in organs or in other tissue. Code the histology to CLL if there are no physical manifestations of the disease other than a positive blood study or positive bone marrow, and code the primary site to bone marrow (C421).
6. If the primary site is unknown or not given:
 - a. Code retroperitoneal lymph nodes if described as retroperitoneal mass
 - b. Code inguinal lymph nodes if described as inguinal mass
 - c. Code mediastinal lymph nodes if described as mediastinal mass
 - d. Code mesenteric lymph nodes if described as mesenteric mass
 - e. If the primary site is unknown code Lymph Nodes, NOS (C779)